

By: Representative Weathersby

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1131

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 29-1-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 WHICH AUTHORIZES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO
3 SELL STATE-FORFEITED TAX LAND BY ONLINE AUCTION, TO AUTHORIZE THE
4 SECRETARY OF STATE TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH ONLINE PROVIDERS
5 TO CONDUCT SUCH SALES BY ONLINE AUCTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 29-1-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 29-1-37 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)
10 of this section, any person desiring to purchase any
11 state-forfeited tax land shall make application in writing to the
12 Secretary of State for the purchase of the land, and shall state
13 in the application:

14 (a) A correct description of the land sought to be
15 purchased.

16 (b) The name of the former owner and the name of the
17 person to whom the land was assessed at the time of the tax sale,
18 and the post office address of the former owner and the post



19 office address of the person to whom the land was assessed at the
20 time of the sale, if known to the applicant.

21 (c) Whether or not the land is occupied at the date of
22 the filing of such application, and the name of the person
23 occupying the land, if any.

24 (d) The nature and value of the improvements on the
25 land.

26 (e) The approximate quantity of the merchantable timber
27 on the land, if any.

28 (f) Any other special information as the Secretary of
29 State, with the approval of the Governor, may require.

30 Each application shall be signed by the applicant and shall
31 contain a declaration that the statements and information
32 submitted in the application are true and correct and are made
33 under penalty of perjury. The Secretary of State may require any
34 additional information with reference to the value of the lands,
35 the nature and condition of the buildings and improvements on the
36 lands, and the value of the timber on the lands as he may deem
37 necessary. The applications shall be filed by the Secretary of
38 State in the order in which they are received. Each application
39 shall be given a serial number and shall be entered on a record
40 book on the day it is received. The record book shall show the
41 name of the applicant, the serial number of the application, and
42 the county in which the property is situated.



43 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this
44 section, the Secretary of State, with the approval of the
45 Governor, may dispose of any state-forfeited tax land by sealed
46 bids after three (3) weeks' advertisement in a newspaper in the
47 county in which the land is located.

48 (3) The Secretary of State may sell state-forfeited tax land
49 by online auction. The Secretary of State may enter into an
50 agreement with an online provider to conduct any such sales by
51 online auction. The Secretary of State may establish procedures
52 and adopt administrative rules for the sale of state-forfeited tax
53 land by online auction.

54 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
55 and after July 1, 2022.

